



SECURE & PREPARED

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Special points of interest:

- Public Information Officers from Black Hawk and surrounding counties met with local media and ran through several scenarios during a training session held on February 28. See article on page 2.
- For the second consecutive year, the Iowa Geographic Information Council has received a \$50,000 Cooperative Agreement Program grant for GIS projects in Iowa. See page 3.
- Learn more about HSEMD's Readiness and Response Bureau on page 4.

Severe Weather Awareness Week to be Held April 7-11

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division and the National Weather Service have declared April 7-11, 2008 as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Iowa. A statewide tornado drill will be held on April 9 starting at 10 a.m.

The National Weather Service will promote weather-safety by issuing informative daily Public Information Statements. Topics to be covered during Severe Weather Awareness Week include:

- April 7 - Flooding
- April 8 - Severe Thunderstorms
- April 9 - Tornadoes/Statewide Drill
- April 10 - NOAA Weather Radio
- April 11 - Family Preparedness

HSEMD will promote its www.BeReadyIowa.org Web site with a *Continued on page 4*



Planning Ahead for Spring

With the active winter weather we've had, the potential for spring flooding is just around the corner. We encourage county emergency management coordinators to review historic data to identify areas of concern, as well as areas that normally flood. Several counties have contacted HSEMD's Readiness and Response Bureau to discuss pre-filling sandbags and flood fight resources.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all our partners for their hard work through the winter and remind everyone of the process for requesting resources. County emergency management coordinators are the first line of defense when an incident occurs and point of contact for requesting state resources when local resources are overwhelmed. Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management's Duty Officer is available 24/7 at 515-725-3231.

Black Hawk County Holds PIO Session

Public information officers from Black Hawk and surrounding counties met with local media and ran through several scenarios during a training session held on February 28. The PIOs and the media had a chance to compare notes and talk about the steps they can take to help each accomplish their jobs during a crisis situation. Both walked away with a better understanding of the challenges each face given an emergency event.

The first scenario the group discussed involved an active shooter at a local mall on a Saturday afternoon. An event of this nature would quickly overwhelm law enforcement and additional resources would have to be added to make an entry and secure the scene. Under the best case scenario, it would take at least 30 minutes for a Waterloo PIO to just make it to the scene, much less gather enough information to hold a useful initial briefing for the media. The news director for KWWL explained that he would send his satellite truck to the mall immediately and they would start live wall-to-wall coverage of the event. The Editor of the *Waterloo Courier* explained that they would immediately start filing reports on the Internet site of the paper. Imagine the challenges of the police official in charge of trying to run an operation, and inform the press at the same time.

The second scenario involved the onset of a serious virus and the deployment of the Strategic National Stockpile. Local and state public health planners have been working on the steps it would take to establish local mass vaccination sites. Allowing the media access to those sites while protecting the privacy of those being vaccinated was one of the issues discussed along with passing on useful information to the public without adding to the stress of the event.

Hats off to Black Hawk Emergency Management Coordinator Barb Berquam for hosting this event.

New StormReady® Communities Recognized

Article courtesy of the Des Moines National Weather Service

Marshall and Carroll Counties, along with Drake University, were all recognized by the Des Moines National Weather Service as StormReady® communities in December 2007. In February 2008, Grinnell College also received StormReady® recognition.

This nationwide community preparedness program uses a grassroots approach to help communities develop plans to handle severe weather and flooding threats. The program is voluntary and provides communities and universities with clear-cut advice from a partnership between local National Weather Service forecast offices and state and local emergency management officials.

To be recognized as StormReady®, a community, university or college must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center;
- Have more than one way to receive severe weather forecasts and warnings and to alert the public or students;
- Create a system that monitors local weather conditions;
- Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars;
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and conducting other preparedness talks.

Cities, counties, colleges and universities are all eligible to become StormReady® communities. Smaller entities such as schools and businesses with populations greater than 50 people are eligible to become StormReady® supporters. For more information on the StormReady® program, visit www.stormready.noaa.gov.

Iowa Receives GIS Grants

For the second consecutive year, the Iowa Geographic Information Council (IGIC) has received a \$50,000 Cooperative Agreement Program grant from the Federal Geographic Information Committee (FGDC) for geographic information system (GIS) projects in Iowa. The emergency management community will benefit greatly by these projects in the types of data they will have access to for planning purposes and in times of emergency.

The 2008 grant, just awarded in February, will be used to start building elements of the Iowa Geospatial Infrastructure. This grant will focus on framework layers for structures (including two-dimensional building footprints) and transportation data. The project will create a procedure to extract building footprints from the statewide LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data, and then build a Web update tool to allow local governments or others to clean up the footprint and add attributes such as type of building and address.

The 2008 grant will also help fund replacement of server hardware for Iowa State University's Geographic Map Server (<http://ortho.gis.iastate.edu/>), which will be used as a platform to deliver IGI web services. In addition, transportation data from Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) will be extracted on a regular basis and loaded on this server using an automated query of the DOT's Linear Referencing System. Both of these tools will serve as prototypes for other web services that will someday be used to collect and maintain many GIS data layers needed across the Iowa geospatial infrastructure (IGI).

Currently, the 2007 grant is being used to help address Iowa's need to access GIS data from multiple sources, such as counties, cities, state and federal agencies. The IGI aims to provide high-quality GIS data (boundaries, parcels, ortho-photography, streams and water bodies, elevation, transportation, addresses and structures) that will be readily accessible, consistent in quality, and maintained by people near the source of the information. Emergency management programs will have access to consistent road networks, parcels, addresses, building footprints and topographic data across jurisdictional boundaries for their county and the counties around them.

Under the 2007 grant project, IGIC hired the Geographic Information Technology Association (GITA) to conduct a return on investment (ROI) analysis of building the IGI over the next several years. The ROI process involved interviewing framework data producers such as county GIS departments, DOT and DNR, on the costs of producing and making data available through IGI. Potential users of the system were also interviewed to get a sense of the financial benefits of having these framework layers readily available to use in their business practices. These benefits can take many forms, including improving the efficiency of existing government business processes and avoiding or reducing costs.

An early benefit of the Cooperative Agreement Program grants is the growing awareness by Iowa's GIS community that a focus on basic framework data development and maintenance is needed as a way of supporting any future plans or developments. Many types of maps require parcels as the basic underlying unit of geography, including tax, voting and school districts. Other states are using their statewide GIS infrastructures to serve the public in such areas as attracting new federal funding for delivery of health services, spreading economic and rural development activities to all parts of the state, and working out detailed emergency management plans and simulations not previously possible. Iowa needs a spatial data infrastructure to compete economically with other states and communities as well.

For more information on these GIS grants, contact HSEMD's Jon Paoli at jonathan.paoli@iowa.gov or DNR's Jim Giglierano at james.giglierano@dnr.iowa.gov.

HSEMD Bureau Spotlight

HSEMD is involved in a wide variety of programs and initiatives. To give readers a better understanding of the responsibilities of each of the four bureaus and the homeland security team, we will periodically provide a snapshot of bureau/staff projects and responsibilities.

The Readiness and Response Bureau, lead by Bureau Chief Jerry Ostendorf, is responsible for having a duty officer on call, 24-hours a day, seven days a week, as a point of contact for emergencies in our state; coordinating state and federal assistance before, during and after disasters; and keeping the state emergency operations center in a state of readiness. Additional responsibilities include: special teams coordination; Iowa Mutual Aid Compact; Emergency Management Assistance Compact –National Coordinating Group; Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council; Multilingual Emergency Response Network; Citizen Corps; planning, training, and exercise support; Web EOC training; Health Alert Network (HAN); radiological maintenance and calibration; and special projects (Homeland Security Strategy, State Preparedness Report, etc.)

The Readiness and Response Bureau is the lead on the state's radiological emergency preparedness program for the four nuclear power plants that operate in or on the borders of Iowa. These plants are required to support local and state preparedness activity and to hold full-scale exercises that involve state agencies.

Following is more information on the members of the Readiness and Response Bureau and their responsibilities:

Joyce Flinn

Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council
Multilingual Emergency Response Network
Citizen Corps
Emergency Management Assistance Compact
Iowa Mutual Aid Compact
Web EOC Power User/Trainer
Duty Officer

Pebble Holland

Iowa Radiological Emergency Response Plan –
Annex P of Iowa Emergency Plan
Site Specific Planner – Quad Cities
Plans, Procedures, Training, Exercises,
EOC Readiness, Special Facilities
State Trusted Agent – Scenario Review
Safeguards Notifications – Spent Nuclear Fuel
Duty Officer

Frank Klier

Oversight of Radiological Maintenance Shop
Chief Operations Officer
Special Teams – USAR, EOD, IMTs
Health Alert Network (HAN)
EOC Readiness and Communications
Power Plant Program – Training, planning and
Forward Command Post Liaison
Duty Officer

Jim Klier and Brian Lewis

Calibrates/repairs and distributes instruments

for the power plant program, regional hazardous materials teams, Civil Defense Program (Regional), Minnesota and Nebraska REP Programs, private users (John Deere, Alcoa, Utilities and Hospitals); and CBRNE

EOC/FCP activations
Provides training on instrumentation

Linda Madison

Administrative Support
Bureau Chief Support
Duty Officer Support
EOC Readiness and Support
Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council
Training Support

Doug Rossell

Site Specific Planner – Duane Arnold
Plans, Procedures, Training, Exercises,
EOC Readiness, Special Facilities
State EOC Procedures
Duty Officer

Kathy Stodola

Site Specific Planner – Fort Calhoun and Cooper Nuclear Stations
Plans, Procedures, Training, Exercises,
EOC Readiness, Special Facilities
State EOC Procedures
Duty Officer

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HSEMD Mission

Lead, coordinate, and support homeland security and emergency management functions in order to establish sustainable communities and ensure economic opportunities for

HSEMD Spotlight: Jim Marwedel

Jim Marwedel recently joined HSEMD as a planner in the Preparedness Bureau. Jim is working with Region 4/District 4 and is the planner for the State's Continuity of Operations and Continuity of Government Plan (COOP/COG). This effort entails working with the state's executive departments and agencies to develop plans for how to continue providing vital services to Iowa's citizens even if a disaster destroys facilities or other operational elements of a department or agency.

Most recently Jim served as city administrator at the City of Panora. Before that, he worked as a public works administrator for the City of Hampton, a city planner for the City of Independence, Missouri, and as a planner for a rural county in northern Utah.

Jim has a master's degree in city and regional planning from Ohio State University. He is married with two sons and a daughter. He is involved in and enjoys Boy Scout and Cub Scout activities with his sons, and especially enjoys canoeing down the Raccoon River. He also likes to play tennis, but admits his game needs improvement. Jim and his wife enjoy volunteering through their church and working on the house that they built in Panora, having done most of the work themselves.



Severe Weather Awareness Week, April 7-11

Continued from page 1

a three-day radio ad campaign through the Radio Iowa/Brownfield networks. The Web site contains useful safety tips urging citizens to learn the warning signals used in their communities, organize a family emergency plan, consider purchasing a NOAA Weather Radio, and put together an emergency supply kit that includes: a flashlight, battery operated radio, extra batteries, and simple first aid items in a waterproof container. Knowing what to do in advance can help prevent unnecessary panic and confusion when severe weather does strike.

Emergency management coordinators may find a toolkit for their use at: www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/resource_room/info_library.asp.

We're on the Web!

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org